



Minute of conference call organised by Co-operatives Victoria, Monday 31 May 2010 10.35 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

PRESENT: Co-operative Federation of New South Wales (Jim Sneesby and Helen McCall), Jim Howard (Co-operative Federation of Queensland), Co-operative Federation of South Australia (David Osgood and Trevor Schmidt), Co-operatives Victoria (Niel Black and David Griffiths), and Co-operatives WA (Chris Enright and Peter Wells) plus by invitation Trent Bartlett (Deputy Chairman, Co-operatives WA and CEO, Capricorn Society).

1. Meeting Notes

Agreed:

That the minutes of CA meeting of 22 March 2010 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

ACTION: Secretary

2. Business arising from previous minutes

2.1 Legislation – Co-operatives National Law

2.1.1 Responsiveness to submissions

At the last meeting it was agreed that CFNSW would attempt to establish responsiveness to the submissions received.

2.1.2 Joint Accounting Bodies

At the last meeting there was discussion on the submission received by NSW Fair Trading from the Joint Accounting Bodies (CPA Australia, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and the National Institute of Accountants) proposing that there should not be separate co-operative legislation. It was agreed that CFQ and CFNSW would draft a letter to the Joint Accounting Bodies requesting a meeting and circulate this for approval. The letter would also be provided to NSW Fair Trading. CFNSW and CFQ reported that the letter had not yet been prepared.

ACTION: CFNSW and CFQ

2.1.3 Small Co-operatives

It was noted here has been an email exchange between CWA and CFNSW on small co-operatives and audit. Co-operatives WA reported that the WA Registrar did not support the application of Corporations Law audit exemptions for small proprietary companies as applicable to small co-operatives and was proposing a threshold of \$4 million in assets and \$8 million in turnover.

All States except NSW supported a threshold of \$6 million in assets and \$12 million in turnover. Disagreement focussed on whether or not there should be provision that small co-operatives be required to maintain appropriate specified financial accounts and financial reports for member and public scrutiny or whether financial accounts and reports required should be a matter determined by the members of co-

operatives through general meetings and rule changes. All agreed that there should be provision for audit exemption with NSW affirming that there should be a review by an independent person rather than an audit in accordance with the Corporations Act. All agreed that model rules should include options on financial accounts and reporting.

2.1.4 Co-operative regulations

There was discussion on the development of co-operative regulations in WA and whether or not these were being developed in consultation with NSW Fair Trading. It was noted that there was to be a second consultation on national regulations by NSW Fair Trading as reported in the documentation for the consultation on the legislation and, therefore, there was an issue as to whether or not the WA regulations would be a template for the national regulations.

Co-operatives WA reported that they expected the WA regulations to be available in a couple of weeks.

Co-operatives WA will advise when the WA regulations are available. CFNSW will contact Fair Trading NSW to establish whether the WA regulations would be a template for the national regulations.

ACTION: CFNSW and CWA.

2.2 Demutualisation Paper

It was noted that the paper was uploaded to australia.coop in April 2010.

2.3 Top 100

CWA and CFSA have completed their revisions. CFNSW has almost finalised but is chasing a few co-ops – including two who were in the original list. CV will finalise by 4 June 2010. A revised list will be circulated after the 4 June 2010 for final comments.

ACTION: Secretary

2.4 International Year of Co-operatives

Social Business Australia organised a conference call on 13 May 2010 to discuss the formation of an IYC Steering Committee. David Griffiths represented Co-operatives Australia. Other attendees included Trevor Schmidt (Co-operative Community Store Nuriootpa/CFSA) and Tony Rogic (Plumbers Cooperative Limited and Andrew Leontarou (CFNSW). David Griffiths advised the conference call that CA would be interested in the IYC Steering Committee subject to speaking to federation colleagues.

Minutes of the meeting were circulated to CA members by email on 16 May 2010. The agenda for the meeting was circulated to CA members on the 7 May 2010.

It was agreed to participate in the IYC 2012 Steering Committee being facilitated by Social Business Australia and that David Griffiths and Jim Howard would be nominated to represent Co-operatives Australia.

It was also agreed that continuing CA participation was to be based on co-operatives being recognised and having a key role in the IYC Steering Committee.

ACTION: Secretary

At the last meeting on 22 March 2010 it was agreed to form a working party to consider options for IYC – David Griffiths, Jim Howard and Helen McCall.

It was agreed that the working party would conference call at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday 2 June 2010 to discuss such issues as:

1. Develop a strategy to engage co-operatives in IYC
2. What we want from the Government in 2012
3. Develop an action plan and timelines for 2012
4. Develop a budget for 2012
5. The role of CA in the IYC 2012 Steering Committee facilitated by Social Business Australia.
6. IYC activities in 2012
7. The funding of these activities in 2012
8. IYC and the future development and structure of CA
9. CA in 2012 and post 2012

CFNSW offered to fund the conference call. It was agreed that the working party would prepare a report within a fortnight for circulation and a further conference call would be organised on an as need basis as determined by CA members.

ACTION: CFNSW, CFQ and CV

2.5 School Co-operatives

There was further discussion about school co-operatives.

It was agreed to accept the offer of Co-operatives WA to draft a CA letter to be sent to each state regarding their interest in school co-operatives and, in particular their knowledge of recent UK experience with the rapidly growing network of co-operative trust schools across the UK.

ACTION: Co-operatives WA and Secretary

2.6 Co-operative Profile Template Survey

Co-operatives WA had circulated a Co-operative Profile survey which was going to be administered to all co-operatives in WA as part of assisting with their transition to new the WA legislation. Feedback was requested to assist Co-operatives WA in further developing the survey. It was noted that the survey could be a template for use in other states.

ACTION: All

2.7 Chair

It was unanimously agreed that David Griffiths would continue as Chair

3. Reports from Federations

NSW reported on the November 2010 intended visit of Canadian co-operator, Ian McPherson.

SA reported on its 15 October 2010 conference.

VIC said there was nothing to report.

WA reported that its issues were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

It was noted that the Secretary-General of the UK Co-operative Party was visiting Australia and

it was agreed that it would be useful to arrange a meeting if possible.

ACTION: Secretary

4. Other Matters

There were no other matters.

5. Further 2010 Meetings

It was agreed that conference calls would be organised on a as need basis.

David Osgood advised that the CA face-to-face meeting on Wednesday 14th October 2010 in SA will be at the offices of O'Loughlins Lawyers, Second floor, 99 Frome Street, Adelaide commencing at 12 noon or asap after the WA boys arrive.

He also advised that the CFSA Conference will be held at Quality Hotel Tiffins on the Park, 176 Greenhill Road, Parkside, SA 5063, accommodation will be available at this venue at the conference cost of \$139 per room including continental breakfast if requested at the same time (normally \$164.00). The Conference cost will be approx \$85/90 per attendee.

David Griffiths
Chair and Secretary
Draft Minute - 31 May 2010
Final Minute – 8 June 2010